# ALBERTA DRUG STRATEGY

## *Stronger together: Community action*

ist of Funded Community Drug Coalitions · Barrhead and District Drug Coalition · For
skatchewan Drug Awareness Committee · Wainwright Multi- Disciplinary Support Tea
· Brooks and District Drug Task F eam ·
Battle River Drug Response Task Force · CRPS-Substance Abuse Working Committee ·
Central Alberta Addictions Consorti egy ·
nde Prairie & Area Drug Action Committee · Leduc Community Drug Action Committe
Lloydminster Area Drug Conference Strategy and Action Committee · Claresholm and
strict Drug Coalition · Drayton Valley Drug Action Coalition · Badlands Drug Coalition
Drumheller Composite High Addictions Task Force · Edson and District Drug Action
oalition · Mobilizing for Stronger Whitecourt · Community Substance Abuse Respons
eam (CSART) · Fort Macleod Crystal Meth Coalition · CORE Lyncs (Morinville/Legal Drug
alition) · Highway 12 Drug Task Force · Jasper Risk Reduction Coalition · Kneehill Dr
Coalition · Lac La Biche Regional Drug Prevention Coalition · Bonnyville Coalition for
Addiction Free Living · Lloydminster Area Drug Strategy And Action Committee ·
Evansburg & Area Drug Awareness Committee · Manning Youth Centre Association ·
Medicine Hat Community Drug Council (MHCDC) · Fairview Drug Awareness Coalition,
mmunity Drug Awareness Forum · Communities in Action (C.I.A.) · Paddle Prairie You
stice Program · Smith Community Drug Initiative · Tri- Municipal Drug Strategy Team
Taber Community Against Drugs · Community Response · Foothills Drug Coalition ·
inton ommittee · Crystal Meth Steering Committee · Westlock Drug Tas
Force · Wetaskiwin Community Solutions · Youth Leadership Action Program

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, the theme of Alberta's Drug Strategy, reflects the spirit of collaboration and partnership necessary to keep our children, families and communities healthy. Communities across Alberta are sharing in a commitment to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug problems. Families, schools, youth, businesses and community agencies are working in more than across Alberta to create solutions that fit the unique needs of their communities. Effective coalitions understand that they must have the voice and involvement of both the larger community and those in vulnerable situations.

The 2006 Drug Coalitions Showcase, hosted by AADAC, brought local drug coalitions from across Alberta together to discover solutions and share ideas. Members of local drug coalitions were able to connect with each other as well as with provincial stakeholders, experts and researchers to share their experiences, successes and lessons learned.

Participating in my community's drug coalition
allows me to feel like I'm making a difference
and that things will be better for my kids.

## Here are just a few of the many wonderful examples of how communities across Alberta can find ways to work together:

- The **Hinton Drug Action Committee** has created an extensive campaign in response to rising concerns about drug use in Hinton and area. Key to this coalition's approach was raising community awareness of the issues and encouraging broader involvement. To support that, trained volunteers moved through the community handing out "meth hurts" window decals and sharing information on drug abuse and where to go for help in dealing with drug problems.
- The members of the **Community Substance Abuse Response Team** in Lethbridge are from several sectors in the community: education, justice, family and community services, parents and First Nations. This dynamic group offers public awareness evenings where people can share their concerns about substance abuse problems in their community as well as their responses and solutions.
- The **Bonnyville Coalition for Addiction Free Living** has developed several successful and diverse programs in their community, including parent information sessions, motivational speeches, media campaigns and a New Year's Eve celebration for families.
- Responding to recommendations from youth, the **Battle River Drug Response Task Force** developed the Buddy Up program. Each student volunteer participating in the Buddy Up program received training in leadership and peer mentoring and was paired with a Grade 6 student for the school year. Feedback from students, parents and teachers clearly supports the belief that, when tackling drug problems, relationships do indeed make a difference!
- The intent of the **Badlands Drug Coalition's** 85/15 project was to raise awareness in the community and to respond to the perception that students in the community had significant drug problems. Results from a survey of high school students showed that 85% of the students surveyed did not use drugs on a regular basis. Innovative and creative ways of getting accurate information to the larger community were very effective.

*All around the province, there is an impressive record of creative ideas and strategies. There is a lot to be proud of. The task of addressing addictions would not be possible without the co-ordinated action taken at the community level.*
*—Murray Finnerty, CEO, AADAC*

**Addressing addictions requires action at all levels, and it requires your support. By becoming involved in efforts in your community, you can be a part of the solution. Coalitions across Alberta are supporting communities to stay healthy, safe and free from the harm of drug abuse.**

Imagine Alberta's youth succeeding in futures free of addiction. Imagine you are a part of that success.

Here's how you can help:

- Become informed about substance abuse issues in your community.
- Get accurate information about alcohol and other drugs.
- Support community events that encourage safe and healthy lifestyles.
- Volunteer with youth in your community.
- Believe that you can make a difference.

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ALBERTA ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION

For more information, contact your local AADAC office, call 1-866-33AADAC or visit our website at aadac.com

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